

NIMITZ HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

I. FOREWORD

The Nimitz High School Band handbook is designed to inform both parents and students of what is expected of them while enrolled and participating in band. Please make sure that you read the handbook thoroughly so that you understand everything that is required and expected of you. Everyone matters in our organization and it is imperative that each person understands their part in making the NHS Band successful.

II. NIMITZ HIGH SCHOOL BAND PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the high school band setting is an ideal place to continue to teach students life skills such as responsibility, commitment, goal setting, self-discipline, teamwork, and leadership; skills that are necessary for success after leaving high school, whether to continue in higher education or to join the adult workforce. Additionally, we believe all students have a right to experience the joy and beauty of music and all interested students will be given the opportunity to develop their interest and skill as much as possible.

III. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS (ELIGIBILITY)

Each student must meet the academic requirements set forth by the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) as well as the Irving Independent School District in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities such as band. If a student is failing, he/she will not be allowed to perform with the band at any UIL sanctioned event.

We have THREE PRIMARY RULES that will insure success in the Nimitz Band as well as most other places in life. They are:

SHOW UP

when and where you are supposed to, on time, every time!

WORK HARD

on musicianship and on the things our ensembles are preparing.

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

the first time, every time!

IV. PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

MARCHING BAND

The marching band is comprised of all students enrolled in the band program and is subdivided into three groups: ---UIL Band Students will be assigned positions in the UIL Band based upon their attendance at rehearsals, effort, and level of cooperation. Students who are not in the UIL Band will be assigned as alternates and will have the opportunity to gain a position in the UIL Band based upon their attendance, effort, and level of cooperation while students who have consistent attendance problems, lack of effort, or low cooperation will be assigned to the P.E. Band, a non-performing band which will fulfill the physical education requirements (required for graduation from Nimitz High School). The UIL Band performs at football games, pep-rallies, parades, marching competitions, and many community events. All performances and rehearsals are mandatory. Each student will be given a schedule of rehearsals and performances at the beginning of school.

The Marching Band contains within it a Colorguard and a DrumLine. Membership in these groups is attained by audition only. After marching season, students in these two groups will resume playing instruments in the regular band program.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is available to all band students (Grades 9-12) in the Spring semester. Membership is based on audition. The group is reserved for those students who demonstrate the best of musical abilities; conduct, attendance, and eligibility will also be considered when being selected. Sectionals may be held for each section one day a week after school. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is available to all band students (Grades 9-12) in the Spring semester. Membership is based on audition. Each student interested in auditioning for the Symphonic Band will be given the appropriate audition material. The group is reserved for those students who do not participate in the Wind Ensemble. Conduct, attendance, and eligibility will be considered. Sectionals may be held for each section one day a week after school. Attendance is mandatory.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Students who need additional practice and/or remedial help in order to be ready for Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band or who have demonstrated low effort or cooperation will be assigned to the Instrumental Ensemble, a non-performing group where students will work on improving their musicianship while learning greater responsibility and cooperation.

VI. CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

The Nimitz High School Band represents our school and community each time we appear in public to perform. All rules governing student behavior as set forth by the Irving Independent School District, and the Nimitz High School Band will be in effect at every rehearsal and performance whether on or off campus. Any student that is found to be disruptive during band or in any other class may be removed from the band program.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Treat directors, teachers, chaperones, and each other with respect at all times.
2. Be on time and ready to work hard for all classes and functions including after school rehearsals.

3. Refrain from loud talking and horseplay or rowdy behavior of any kind in rehearsal/performance area(s) or while en route to rehearsals/performance.
4. Follow all school policies during and after school hours.
5. Have an instrument that is in good playing condition.
6. Leave things alone that belong to others. This includes percussion equipment and other school owned equipment.
7. Properly care for uniforms, instruments, and any other school property.
8. Fulfill any financial obligations incurred within the band program.
9. Notify the director if a practice must be missed. Notes from parents are required.
10. Play off all music on or before the assigned time. Failure to do so will first result in a lower grade, and may result in loss of performance privileges.
11. Have all equipment, reeds, music, and anything else necessary to function properly in class or performance
12. Keep the band hall clean and neat.
13. Ask permission before using the phone.
14. Follow any additional rules set forth by the directors.
15. Follow proper behavior guidelines on trips and on buses.

VIII. ATTENDANCE

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances and should always be on time. It is almost impossible for a student to make up what was missed when absent since new concepts are introduced almost every day. Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. **Any UNEXCUSED ABSENCE MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF PERFORMANCE PRIVILEGES.**

Students who hold part-time jobs should make arrangements with employers in order to be able to attend all rehearsals and performances. **WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE!** Employers are usually very good about scheduling if informed in advance. When you receive a calendar of events, be sure to provide your employer with a copy.

Students are responsible for their own transportation to rehearsals or to the school for performances. **NOT HAVING A RIDE IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR MISSING REHEARSAL!** There are usually people who are willing to assist in providing transportation for you if asked. If you cannot get a ride back to school for a performance, do not leave school.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE

With the exception of extreme emergency or illness, students will not be excused from rehearsal. Any student present at school the day of a rehearsal is expected to be at that day's rehearsal. A parent's note or doctor's note should be given to the director on the day the student returns to school. Failure to attend rehearsal may result in loss of performance privileges and will result in lowered grades.

Only in extreme emergency or illness will a student be excused from a performance. Failure to attend a performance may result in loss of performance privileges and will result in lowered grades.

VIII. GRADING POLICY

Grades in band are based upon the student's participation (which includes effort and attendance at all rehearsals and performances), level of cooperation, and the grades received on playing and or marching tests. Although the points possible in each category will vary from one grading period to the next because some periods will contain more public performances and less playing tests (i.e., marching season) students who are careful to show up, work hard, and follow directions will find that their grades will be high. Failure to do any of these things will result in lowered grades.

IX. UNIFORMS

Each student is assigned a band uniform for the entire academic school year which will be kept at the student's home when not in use. The student will be responsible for any damage that occurs to the uniform while in their possession; note that full replacement cost of a complete uniform is \$300. **Uniforms should NOT be left inside a garment bag after performances but should be allowed to air dry on a hanger. The uniform pants are machine washable; the jacket and other accessories are to be dry cleaned only.**

MARCHING UNIFORM

- Jacket w/ sash, pants, gauntlets (Black and Blue)

CONCERT (Men)

- Tuxedo Jacket and pants, tuxedo shirt, cummerbund and bow-tie

CONCERT UNIFORM (Ladies)

- Black formal dress

WEARING THE UNIFORM

While in uniform, students represent the Nimitz High School Band. Uniforms must be worn properly at all times.

- Students will either wear the uniform entirely or not at all when in public except for the hat although students **may** be allowed to take the jacket off during warm weather. Students are not to open the jacket or take it off until instructed to do

so by director. Students should arrive at all performances with the complete uniform on. During warm weather, the jacket can be kept on hanger in uniform bag during travel. The band T-shirt should be worn under the uniform at all times

- Jewelry, headbands or non-band hats, sunglasses, and other items that are not a part of the uniform are not to be worn.
- Only **black band shoes and black socks** are to be worn with the marching uniform, including before performances. Concert footwear consists of black dress shoes for boys and girls, with black socks (boys) or neutral pantyhose (girls).
- The hats will be handed out at each performance. Hats will be worn only during marching performance.

UNIFORMS (ESPECIALLY MARCHING UNIFORMS) SHOULD BE CLEANED PERIODICALLY. The marching uniform pants are machine washable; **the top must be dry cleaned only**. The cost of cleaning during the year is the responsibility of each individual student.

X. TRAVEL

Students will travel by bus to many away from school performances. Driving to performances is allowed only with the director's prior possession.

NHS Band Bus Rules

1. Be quiet when the directors or chaperones are checking roll.
2. Once you get in a seat, stay there. Do not get up and walk around on the bus.
3. Be courteous and cooperative with directors and chaperones. If they ask you to do something, please do it without asking questions or making comments.
4. There will be no loud singing or talking. If the chaperones ask you to be quiet, please do so without comment.
5. Radios/music devices of any kind must have headphones.
6. No opened beverages in the band hall prior to the trip.
7. Small coolers are permitted. However, they will be checked before you get on the bus.
8. All bags may be checked at any time as well as any item therein.
10. Do not throw trash out the bus windows or leave it on the floor. Trash bags are on the buses.
11. Students will be required to ride home with the band. Only in special circumstances will students be allowed to ride home with others.
12. Every student will be responsible for his/her own instrument and uniform after every performance.
13. Do not be late. We will make every attempt to leave on time and may leave late students at home.
14. All school policies must be followed.
15. No student should ever stand in his or her seat. Due to damage caused to the seats by students standing on them, the transportation department will be fining students who stand on their seat.
16. Profane language or rowdy behavior will not be tolerated.

XI. INSPECTION

Band students may be inspected before each performance. If a student fails inspection, he/she will not be allowed to perform and will have points deducted from their grade.

XII. BAND FEES

A fee of \$50 per semester (\$100 per year) is charged to each student as a way to defray expenses incurred by the band for each student (such as band t-shirt, uniform cleaning, entry fees to group events, etc.) The Nimitz High School fee is substantially less than most of the bands in the area. In addition, the following list of items (NOT included in the \$50 per semester fee) may be required.

- Black band shoes \$30.00 (usually purchased during freshman year and used afterward)
- Instrument usage fee \$25.00 per semester
- Mouthpiece usage fee (each student is recommended to own the necessary mouthpiece) \$10 per semester
- Sticks/Mallets (amount varies)

Checks should be made payable to the Nimitz High School Band.

XIII. SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENT USAGE

In order to use a school owned instrument, each student is required to pay a usage fee of \$25 per semester. Students should own their own mouthpiece; however, mouthpieces may be rented from the band for \$20 per year.

Student and parent/s are responsible for all instruments or equipment checked out. Instruments will be issued in working condition and must be returned in the same condition except for normal wear, which does not include dents. Student and parent agree to maintain instrument in working condition at their own expense until instrument is officially returned to a director.

Students should take every precaution to prevent damage to instruments, cases, or equipment. Students should play only the instrument checked out to him/her. Each student using a school instrument or equipment will be given a place to keep it.

The usage fee is not a rental or repair fee and does not relieve the student/parent of responsibility in paying for damages.

